



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (*NOAA*)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Wednesday - October 24, 2001

- ***In the West***, showers are diminishing across the ***interior Northwest***, where additional moisture is needed to ensure proper winter wheat establishment. Elsewhere ***west of the Rockies***, dry weather favors fieldwork, including summer crop harvesting and winter grain planting.
- ***On the Plains***, snowy, windy conditions are developing across ***eastern North Dakota***, slowing ***Red River Valley*** fieldwork and increasing livestock stress. Meanwhile on the ***northern High Plains***, snow showers are providing beneficial moisture for winter wheat, although cold weather is hindering crop development. Conditions remain favorable for wheat establishment on the ***central Plains***, but dryness continues to intensify across the ***southern High Plains***.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, cool, showery weather continues to hamper corn and soybean harvesting operations, which fell behind the normal pace in early October and have been frequently delayed by rain and wet fields.
- ***In the South***, warm, dry weather favors fieldwork and winter grain emergence ***west of the Appalachians***, but is further reducing soil moisture levels in the ***Atlantic Coast States from Georgia northward***.

Outlook: Widespread showers will accompany the passage of a strong cold front across the ***Midwest*** on Wednesday and the ***Northeast*** on Thursday. Snow is forecast to gradually diminish in the ***Red River Valley*** but will continue for several days in the ***Great Lakes region***. Cool, mostly dry weather is expected across most of the U.S. for the remainder of the week. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for October 29 - November 2 calls for a return to near- to above-normal temperatures nationwide, with the warmest weather expected on the ***Plains***. Below-normal precipitation is forecast nationwide, except for near-normal amounts in ***New England and southern Florida***, and above-normal totals in the ***Pacific Northwest***.

Contact: Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-2397)